Biodiversity Plan for Great Ayton

November 2026 - October 2027

Background

This plan has been developed following the progress report (May 2026) on work undertaken linked to the Plan for Pollinators developed in June 2019 and subsequent discussions between members of Brighten Up Great Ayton (a sub-group of Climate Action Stokesley and Villages) and members of Great Ayton Parish Council's Open Spaces group. The plan is based on the priorities in the existing policy and the suggestions for management activity that are included plus the additional ideas from the discussion.

The name has been changed to Biodiversity Plan to link it to the Parish Council's Biodiversity Policy and also to widen the remit beyond pollinating insects.

Aim

The aim of the Biodiversity Plan is to aid the GAPC to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Great Ayton.

Priorities from Great Ayton Parish Council's Biodiversity Policy, August 2025

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.
- It will consider the reduction of the use of pesticides and herbicides used on Parish Council owned land
- It will follow advice and guidance from North Yorkshire Council on how best to manage and maintain open spaces.
- Review how it manages the land owned and managed in the village.

Suggestions of management activities in current policy

- Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates where appropriate -
- Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates where appropriate
- Look at providing bug hotels and hedgehog houses to encourage biodiversity.
- Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required
- Install bird boxes in Parish Council owned trees
- Carryout tree surveys approximately every five years to ensure the health and longevity of the Council owned trees

Abbreviations used in action plan on next page:

Great Ayton Parish Council – GAPC

Brighten Up Great Ayton – BUG

North Yorkshire Council – NYC

Tees Rivers Trust - TRT

Review policy and plan: September 2027

Priorities	Actions	Who	When	Impact
1. Biodiversity policy	a)Review policy following exploration of other Parish Council's policies. b)Communicate biodiversity policy and progress of action plan with residents and visitors through website and Facebook pages. c)Work in partnership with BUG and other interested community groups.	GAPC GAPC GAPC	Sept. '27 Ongoing Ongoing	Clear plan to increase biodiversity that residents and visitors are aware of GAPC supported in delivering plan by local groups
2. Decisions made by Parish Council.	a)Agree what possible impacts on biodiversity could arise in GAPC decision making.	GAPC	Nov 26	Councillors aware of possible impacts on biodiversity when making decisions.
3. Consider the reduction of use of pesticides and herbicides used on Parish Council owned land.	a)Identify current usage of pesticides and herbicides. b)Investigate how other Parish Councils have reduced their use of pesticides and herbicides including cost implications. c)Investigate the pros and cons of reducing use of pesticides and herbicides	GAPC BUG BUG	Nov 26 Jan 27 Jan 27	Plan in place for pesticide/ herbicide reduction
4. Guidance from North Yorkshire Council on how best to manage and maintain open spaces.	a)Obtain current guidance from NYC on managing/ maintaining open spaces for a variety of purposes. b)Arrange meeting with range of experts on ways to manage the different open spaces around the village to increase biodiversity.	BUG BUG	Nov 26 Nov 26	Plan in place for managing open spaces

Priorities	Actions	Who	When	Impact
	c)Agree which species to monitor. d)Agree where standing/ fallen dead wood and leaf litter/ dead vegetation should be left in situ.	BUG BUG/ GAPC	Mar 27 Mar 27	
5. Manage the land owned / managed in the village	a)Identify who owns/ has right to manage open spaces accessed by public around village. b)Agree which areas will be managed by GAPC / BUG. c)Agree plan for mowing regime for different purposes/areas. d)Agree plan for managing Himalayan Balsam on land owned/managed by GAPC. e)Identify when tree survey of Council owned trees last carried out and next due. f)Find out progress with Leven Catchment Partnership project for Low Green. g)Identify climate resilient tree species for future planting.	GAPC GAPC/ BUG GAPC GAPC/ BUG/ Tees Rivers Trust GAPC BUG BUG BUG	Nov 26 Jan 27 Mar 27 Mar 27 Nov 26 Nov 26 Mar 27 Mar 27	Land managed to conserve and enhance biodiversity

Priorities	Actions	Who	When	Impact
	h)Identify where appropriate to have formal bug hotels/hedgehog houses/bird boxes. i)Identify funding/donations for formal bug hotels/hedgehog houses/bird boxes. j)Identify planting for signs at entrances to village k)Identify where to sow wildflower sees l)Commission art work and flower bed for Camp Corner	BUG BUG BUG GAPC	Mar 27 Mar 27 July 27	